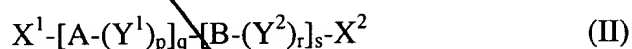


PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT and RESPONSE  
TO RESTRICTION AND ELECTION OF  
SPECIES REQUIREMENT  
U.S. Application No.: 09/831,509

Sub C3  
B2  
6 (Amended) The fluorine-containing rubber composition for crosslinking of Claim 2, wherein the fluorine-containing elastomer has carboxyl group at an end of a trunk chain and/or branched chain as a crosslinkable group and is represented by the formula (I):



or the formula (II):



wherein  $X^1$  and  $X^2$  are the same or different and each is carboxyl group, alkoxycarbonyl group, iodine atom, bromine atom or sulfonic acid group,  $Y$ ,  $Y^1$  and  $Y^2$  are the same or different and each is a divalent organic group having carboxyl group, alkoxycarbonyl group, iodine atom, bromine atom or nitrile group at a side chain thereof,  $A$  is an elastomeric fluorine-containing polymer chain segment,  $B$  is a non-elastomeric fluorine-containing polymer chain segment,  $p$  is 0 or an integer of 1 to 10,  $q$  is an integer of 1 to 5,  $r$  is 0 or an integer of 1 to 10,  $s$  is an integer of 1 to 3, any one of  $X^1$ ,  $X^2$ ,  $Y$ ,  $Y^1$  and  $Y^2$  is carboxyl group,  $Y$ ,  $Y^1$  and  $Y^2$  may be contained at random in the segment  $A$  or  $B$ .

B3  
16. (Amended) A process for preparing the fluorine-containing elastomer of Claim 3, which comprises polymerizing a fluorine-containing monomer by using, as one of a polymerization initiator and/or monomer, a compound giving carboxyl group to a trunk chain and treating a polymerization product with an acid.